

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims.

1-43 (cancelled).

44 (currently amended): A method of making a non-immunogenic construct comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, which copies bind to a B cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope but fail to form an immunon, comprising

- (a) providing a non-immunogenic soluble carrier that has been subjected to a preparative sizing technique to remove substantially most high molecular weight non-immunogenic soluble carrier molecules, and an epitope molecule of a T-dependent antigen;
- (b) coupling two or more of the epitope molecules to the ~~size-fractionated~~ non-immunogenic soluble carrier that has been subjected to the preparative sizing technique of step (a) to yield a conjugate preparation; and
- (c) subjecting the conjugate preparation to size fractionation,

thereby yielding a non-immunogenic construct which is free of high molecular weight immunostimulatory molecules.

45 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a peptide epitope.

46 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a carbohydrate epitope.

47 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a nucleic acid.

48 (previously presented): The method of claim 47, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a phosphorothioate nucleic acid.

49 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a glycolipid epitope.

50 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope is derived from an allergen.

51 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope is derived from an autoimmune antigen.

52 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic carrier comprises a dextran, a Ficoll, a carboxymethylcellulose, a polyvinyl alcohol, a synthetic polymer of D amino acids or a polyacrylamide.

53 (cancelled).

54 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic carrier comprises a protein oligomer.

55 (previously presented): The method of claim 54, wherein the protein oligomer comprises an immunoglobulin or albumin.

56 (currently amended): The method of claim 44, wherein after the preparative sizing technique the ~~size-fractionated~~ non-immunogenic carrier has a molecular weight of less than about 100,000 daltons.

57 (currently amended): The method of claim 56, wherein after the preparative sizing technique the ~~size-fractionated~~ non-immunogenic carrier has a molecular weight of less than about 40,000 daltons.

58 (cancelled).

59 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the preparative sizing technique comprises size exclusion gel chromatography.

60 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the preparative sizing technique comprises ultrafiltration.

61 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the copies of the epitope are bound to the non-immunogenic carrier by a spacer molecule.

62 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein the spacer molecule comprises an epsilon amino caproic acid or a delta amino valeric acid.

63 (cancelled).

64 (cancelled).

65 (currently amended): The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic construct comprises less than ~~about~~ 20 copies of the epitope.

66 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is immunosuppressive when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

67 (currently amended): The method of claim 66, wherein the non-immunogenic construct ~~is immunosuppressive to T cells~~ suppresses T-cell dependent antibody production.

68 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is tolerogenic when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

69 (currently amended): A method of making a non-immunogenic construct comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, wherein construct-bound copies of the epitope are capable of binding to a B cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope without forming a clustering of B cell membrane-bound receptors, the method comprising

- (a) providing a preparation of a non-immunogenic soluble carrier, wherein substantially all high molecular weight non-immunogenic soluble carrier molecules have been removed from the preparation, and an epitope of a T-dependent antigen; ~~and~~
- (b) coupling the two or more copies of the epitope to the non-immunogenic soluble carrier to yield a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct; and
- (c) subjecting the epitope-coupled construct to size fractionation,

thereby yielding a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct which is free of high molecular weight immunostimulatory molecules.

70 (withdrawn): A method of making a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, wherein at least two copies of construct-bound epitope are capable of binding to a B cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope without forming a clustering of B cell membrane-bound receptors, the method comprising

- (a) providing a soluble carrier and an epitope of a T-dependent antigen;
- (b) coupling the two or more copies of said epitope to the soluble carrier; and,
- (c) removing substantially all immunostimulatory molecules from the product of the reaction of step (b) to generate a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation.

71 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation has a molecular weight of less than about 100,000 daltons.

72 (withdrawn): The method of claim 71, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation has a molecular weight of less than about 40,000 daltons.

73 (withdrawn): The method of claim 72, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation has a molecular weight of less than about 20,000 daltons.

74 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein substantially all immunostimulatory molecules are removed from the product of the reaction of step (b) by size exclusion gel chromatography.

75 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein substantially all immunostimulatory molecules are removed from the product of the reaction of step (b) by ultrafiltration.

76 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the epitope comprises a phosphorothioate nucleic acid.

77 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the epitope is derived from an allergen.

78 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the epitope is derived from an autoimmune antigen.

79 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic carrier comprises a polyvinyl alcohol, a synthetic polymer of D amino acids or a polyacrylamide.

80 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the copies of the epitope are bound to the carrier by a spacer molecule, wherein the spacer molecule comprises an epsilon amino caproic acid or a delta amino valeric acid.

81 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprises from about 4 to about 30 copies of the epitope.

82 (withdrawn): The method of claim 81, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprises from about 6 to about 14 copies of the epitope.

83 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprises less than about 20 copies of the epitope.

84 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is immunosuppressive when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

85 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is immunosuppressive to T cells.

86 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is tolerogenic when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

87 (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a non-immunogenic construct comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, wherein at least two copies of construct-bound epitope are capable of binding to a B cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope without forming a clustering of B cell membrane-bound receptors.